

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 EUR-25 DPW-01 EB-11 AID-20 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /170 W

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R 051041 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6360

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4098

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, VN, ID

SUBJ: CURRENT SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA: TALK BETWEEN
PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND ADMIRAL GAYLER

REF: JAKARTA 4043

1. I ACCOMPANIED ADMIRAL GAYLER IN HIS CALL ON PRESIDENT
SUHARTO TODAY. ENSUING CONVERSATION ALMOST ENTIRELY
CONFINED TO SITUATION INDOCHINA, PARTICULARLY CAMBODIA
AND VIETNAM, WHICH OBVIOUSLY MUCH ON SUHARTO'S MIND.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SUHARTO'S REQUEST, ADMIRAL GAYLER SAID
IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT OUTCOME BUT THAT TREND IN
FIGHTING IN VIETNAM WAS DOWN, WHICH HE THOUGH WAS HOPE-
FUL SIGN, AND VIET CONG SUCCESSES HAVE FALLEN CONSIDERABLY
SHORT OF THEIR PLANS AND DESIRES. WITH RESPECT TO CON-
TINUED NORTH VIETNAMESE BUILDUP IN SOUTH VIETNAM,
ADMIRAL GAYLER THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE RELATED TO TWO
POSSIBLE STRATEGIES (A) MAINTAINING STRENGTH FOR LONG-
TERM POLITICAL ANDT

BB72'*" - PK4 PRDDSZ VPJ RMWAWK

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ACXMM\$,

ALL- OUT ATTACK LATER. ASKED BY SUHARTO TO ASSESS SOUTH VIETNAM'S ABILITY TO WITHSTAND SUCH ALL- OUT ATTACK, ADMIRAL GAYLER SAID HE FELT SOUTH VIETNAM SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT. SUHARTO'S PROBING SUGGESTED HE HAD HEARD AND WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ASSESSMENT REFTEL. HE REFRAINED FROM SHOWING AS MUCH CONCERN, HOWEVER, AS SOME AMONG INDONESIAN MILITARY HAVE SHOWN IN PAST, ALTHOUGH THIS COULD SIMPLY REFLECT HIS " COOLER" STYLE. SUHARTO APPEARED PLEASED WHEN ADMIRAL GAYLER TOLD HIM THAT HE THOUGHT U. S. WOULD KEEP ITS AIR STRENGTH IN THAILAND AND ON CARRIERS AS LONG AS IT WAS NEEDED AND DESIRED.

3. EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT RECENT DETERIORATION THERE, SUHARTO ASKED ABOUT CAMBODIA. HE SAID HE HAD SENT AMBASSADOR DHARSONO TO CAMBODIA LAST WEEK TO URGE GENERAL LON NOL TO TRY TO BRING OTHER LEADERS SUCH AS SIRIK MATAK AND IN TAM INTO GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. SUHARTO SAID HE HAD GOLD DHARSONO TO OFFER AN INDONESIAN MISSION IF IT COULD BE OF ANY HELP. ASKED TO COMMENT, ADMIRAL GAYLER SAID OUT VIEW WAS VERY MUCH PARALLEL TO THE INDONESIAN VIEW. HE DID NOT THINK SITUATION THERE YET CRITICAL ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SERIOUS PROBLEM OF COMMUNICATION AND SUPPLY, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF INSECURITY OF SHIPPING ON MEKONG.

4. REVERTING TO VIETNAM, SUHARTO SAID HE EXPECTED POLITICAL STRUGGLE THERE TO GO ON FOR LONG TIME.
GALBRAITH

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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